



Spc. Robert Adams

Spc. Joshua Eldridge, 1st Platoon, Shadow Company TUAV, STB, UAV maintainer, and Dan Autry, UAV maintainer, prepare the unmanned aerial vehicle for flight Nov. 22 at Wright Army Airfield. See story and photo on page 3A.

Fort Stewart Road Closures

Fort Stewart Public Safety officials announced today that Georgia Highway 144 on Fort Stewart will be closed to all traffic on the following days: Dec. 13 and 14; and Dec. 20 and 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., in order for the 3rd Infantry Division to conduct convoy operations on the roadways during these time periods.

The only exception to this policy is traffic from the Stewart cantonment area to Evans Army Airfield and back to Stewart.

Military Police will be stationed at all road blocks/detours to direct traffic.

Patrol vehicles will be monitoring the highways to ensure that only authorized vehicles are traveling on them.

Questions may be directed to the Stewart Provost Marshal Officer's Operations office during the duty day at 767-1721, or the Military Police Desk 24 hours daily at 767-4895.

Motorcycle safety: how to stay alive

Pfc. Ricardo Branch

3rd Inf. Div.

Motorcycle accidents can occur at any place and any time and the 3rd Infantry Division is no exception to serious motorcycle accidents.

A chain of motorcycle accidents has occurred in the past few weeks resulting in the two unfortunate cases of 3rd Inf. Div. Soldiers being killed.

"Two motorcycle fatalities have occurred within the last month in 3rd Bde. at Fort Benning," said Jeff Willis, safety specialist, installation safety office.

"Unfortunately both of the motorcycle fatalities that occurred involved an officer, and a junior enlisted Soldier," said William Walker, safety technician, installation safety office. "That tells you that it's not just one kind of person that can get in an accident and lose their life, it can happen to any Soldier."

The 3rd Inf. Div. safety office is there to help motorcycle riders with a motorcycle defense safety course that is mandatory to ride on Stewart.

"We run a course on Stewart at Building 206 that brings Soldiers in for an all day class with the first few hours focusing on safety tips and the latter half of the day riding, which navigates Soldiers on their bikes through a small road course," Willis said.

The motorcycle safety courses combine classroom teaching with hands-on training and skills testing.

During the first four hours of classroom instruction, Soldiers learn basic common sense rules, such as avoiding riding in bad weather, not to weave through traffic, and never assuming that other drivers can see you, because chances are, they don't.

The next four hours of class are conducted at a parking lot for a hands-on assessment of a Soldiers ability to handle a bike.

The road course takes Soldiers through a variety of maneuvers to include riding in circles and figure eights, turning, braking and accelerating.

"The class is extremely important, because many Soldiers are getting killed in motorcycle accidents," Willis said.

According to a Soldiers magazine article from July 1994, the Army first implemented the safety course for motorcycles and made it mandatory because there was and still are a high number of fatalities on motorcycles.

According to an internet website, AXcess News article from Oct. 28, 2004, the Army is currently alarmed at the number of Soldier fatalities which have occurred recently (as

many as 130 POV related deaths last year alone) and is in the process of creating another program to help reduce the number of fatalities in privately owned vehicles and motorcycles.

"More soldiers were killed in privately owned vehicle accident fatalities than accidental deaths in Iraq last year," said J.T. Coleman, command information manager at the U.S. Army Safety Center.

According to the article, POV fatality numbers lately are the highest in the ten years and prompted the Annual Association

of the Army to take more recent action.

Recent effort to bring awareness of being careful on the road can be seen today by country music artists and NASCAR drivers that have been enlisted to help encourage Soldiers on good driving habits in various commercials.

"Ultimately accidental fatalities on the road will never go away but Soldiers can help lower them and stop them from occurring so frequently by obeying traffic laws and being safe and aware on the road," Walker said.

Future employment hindered by unresolved security issues

Jennifer Wingfield

Managing Editor

Unresolved information can hurt you obtaining and maintaining a security clearance. Especially if you are looking to continue your career after your military service in any civilian federal position or civilian firm not affiliated with the government, but who still conducts background checks.

Personnel security regulations require that commanders report derogatory information to the Central Personnel Security Facility located at Fort Meade, Md. However, some commanders may feel they are helping a Soldier by not reporting adverse actions, said Don Cahill, chief of Fort Stewart's Personnel Security Investigations.

Even though a soldier may depart the military with a security clearance, in most cases another investigation will be required for federal employment. These subsequent investigations may reveal information not previously reported to adjudication officials. Unreported derogatory information, which occurred while serving in the military, may be used as a basis to deny employment.

Commanders should realize that reporting adverse information to CCF does not mean a security clearance would be revoked or denied. If the offense is considered minor or isolated, in most cases the security clearance will be reaffirmed. Failure to report information may keep a soldier from getting a position with the federal government by having unresolved police files in their "dossier" or army file.

What commanders don't realize is that when a police report is created, an automatic distribution of that police report is placed into their dossier, Cahill said.

"Everyone who is affiliated with the Department of Defense, whether you are military or civilian, has a dossier," Cahill said. "Having a dossier does not mean that you have been in trouble. It is



Jennifer Wingfield

Don Cahill, chief of personnel security investigations, reviews one of the many files for a security clearance.

merely something along the lines of a 201 file."

Another point to consider is that a police file remains active in your dossier for 40 years, which is considered the length of time you are normally working.

All derogatory information needs to be sent to the Central Clearance Facility at Fort Meade. Minor information can be sent directly to CCF. More serious incidents, such as felonies and crimes that would require suspension of access must be sent to Cahill at PSI.

See SECURITY, Page 7A

Weather Forecast

FRI

High 64° Low 39°

SAT

High 61° Low 41°

SUN

High 63° Low 50°

News



DFACs deck out dining facilities ... 2A

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Photos by Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Maj. Gen. William G. Webster examines a holiday cornucopia set up by the DFAC personnel at the fires brigade DFAC Thanksgiving Day.

Division DFACs deck out dining rooms

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
Staff Writer

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield dining facilities went out of their way Thanksgiving Day to make sure Soldiers felt festive, even without their families surrounding them.

The installations' four DFACs were adorned with colorful centerpieces, Thanksgiving themed decorations, ice sculptures and cornucopias — not a simple task, according to one DFAC manager.

"This took us about 10 to 12 hours for the total setup," said Stacey L. Nellams, manager, Division Support Brigade's facility.

Nellams and her staff worked through the night on their project, as did the other DFACs' personnel, but she said all their hard work paid off

Thanksgiving Day.

"There's so much joy and satisfaction in making sure the Soldiers' morale is up," she said with a smile. "We just want them to know there are people here willing to take care of them and take care of their needs."

Another reward, the more tangible kind, was also given to each DFAC that proved outstanding in one or more of the four categories being judged by Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, the 3rd Infantry Division commander, and members of his staff.

Webster, along with Brig. Gen. Mark O'Neill, assistant division commander (support), Brig. Gen. Karl Horst, assistant division commander (maneuver), and others, visited each DFAC and its workers to see the finished products and give compliments for a job well done.

The winners of each of the four competitive categories were:

- 24th Corps Support Group, Best Centerpiece
- Division Fires Brigade, Best Decorated
- Division Support Brigade, Best Theme
- Aviation Brigade, Best Esprit de Corps

Master Sgt. Shelton Coppet, non-commissioned officer in charge of division senior food service operations management, also visited the DFACs, and had nothing but positive words for all those involved in the Thanksgiving preparations.

"The work they did was outstanding, especially since the DFACs' contractors have only been working there about a month," he said. "They did an excellent job."



Webster spends some quality time with furry wildlife on Thanksgiving Day.



(Top) Webster presents 24th CSG DFAC personnel with their trophy for Best Centerpiece.

(Right) Brig. Gen. Karl Horst, assistant division commander (maneuver), and Maj. Gen. William G. Webster, 3rd Inf. Div. commanding general, examine a palm tree, part of the fires brigade DFAC display.



A fountain spewing orange punch fits with the harvest color scheme of the fires brigade DFAC at Stewart Thanksgiving Day.

Unmanned plane keeps eye in sky

Spc. Robert Adams

50th PAD

1st and 2nd platoons of Shadow Company, Special Troops Battalion, were flying Unmanned Aerial Vehicles at Wright Army Airfield Nov. 22.

The company has been training Soldiers with and flying the newly acquired UAV's and equipment for the past three-months to hone their skills in preparation for their deployment to Iraq.

The UAV's mission is to perform Army tactical level reconnaissance, surveillance, target acquisition, and battle damage assessment.

"It is beneficial because you aren't putting any pilots in jeopardy," said Pfc. Paul Witkowski, 2nd Platoon, Shadow Company, STB, UAV operator. "It can be used to perform improvised explosive device searches or to talk infantry units in and out of areas."

It can look at anything on the ground from the sky and it transmits a live video to brigade tactical operation centers for analysis.

Though the UAV is an unmanned aircraft, it takes the work of Soldiers on the ground to transport, assemble, operate, disassemble, load and operate it.

There are about 20 Soldiers, a platoon sergeant, a platoon leader, and a warrant officer in each platoon. After transporting the UAV to a designated site, the platoon can set up components, assemble their "birds" and launch them in under an hour.

"We have a lot of brand new Soldiers within the platoon and they are excited about their jobs," said 1st Lt. Kynnie Chan, 1st Platoon, Shadow Company, STB platoon leader. "But we have some of the smartest Soldiers in the Army working on them."

The vehicles and equipment the platoon needs to possess to execute their mission consists of nine components.

The UAV itself consists of many pieces that is assembled and disassembled each time it is transported. The launcher, which is 30 feet long, can launch the UAV into the sky at 81 mph. Once the bird is in flight, the Ground Control Station views and flies the bird in the sky.

Inside the GCS vehicle, one Soldier will fly the UAV while the other operates the camera. To track the bird in flight, the platoon uses a Ground Data Terminal.

This piece of equipment monitors which direction and how far away the bird is from their location. And as the bird prepares to land, the platoon uses the Tactical Automated Landing System, which will lock onto the bird to guide it in for a smooth landing.



Spc. Robert Adams

An unmanned aerial vehicle descends to the runway after taking a training flight Nov. 22 at Wright Army Airfield.

Other vehicles within the platoon include Air Vehicle Transporters which store and transport the birds and the

Maintenance Shelter Mobile, which carries all the needed tools and spare parts needed to keep the bird flying.

Actionable Intelligence: UAs to beef up MI assets

Gary Sheftick

Army News Service

WASHINGTON - The 3rd Infantry Division "units of action" deploying to Iraq will have unmanned aerial vehicles, the Prophet collection system and more assigned intelligence assets than a typical brigade combat team.

With the transformation to modularity, about 9,000 new military intelligence positions will be created over the next few years Armywide, said Lt. Col. Steve Iwicki, director of the Actionable Intelligence focus area in Department of the Army G2. He said about 5,000 of those will be with the brigade-sized units of action. Another 3,000 will be at the division or UEx level and the final thousand with UEy or corps.

Under the Objective Design built by Task Force Modularity, each of the new UAs will eventually have about 60 more intelligence analysts than a Force XXI BCT, Iwicki said. Each will have an organic MI company, a separate Analysis and Interrogation Platoon, a UAV Platoon with three or four Shadow 200 unmanned aerial vehicles, and more MI analysts in both battalion and brigade-level S2 sections.

"This significant growth is a challenge to resource in the near-term as we simultaneously grow the training base," Iwicki said, adding that the first several transforming units, including those in the 3rd Inf. Div., are

manned at lower personnel levels.

"You can't just grow 9,000 overnight," Iwicki said, "particularly NCOs and warrant officers."

Until now, MI companies have normally been in direct support to a deploying BCT, Iwicki said. But UAs will now have assigned MI companies that will both train and fight with the brigade, providing added synergy, he said.

The Prophet system with the UAs will be mounted on a Humvee and be capable of collecting and processing signal intelligence.

Each of the 3rd Inf. Div. units of action will also have a Distributed Common Ground System. DCGS beefed-up software will be loaded on a light laptop All-Source Analysis System, or ASAS. It will provide: connectivity back to national intelligence agencies, geospatial mapping tools, and the ability to exploit captured documents, Iwicki said.

The 101st Airborne Division UAs will also receive tailored DCGS systems whenever they deploy, Iwicki said, explaining the software they receive will be based on their perceived needs.

"Anything that can save a Soldier's life, should be in their hands," Iwicki said.

In addition to the new systems, the division will also have about 15,000 "organic sensors," Iwicki said, pointing out that "every Soldier is a sensor."

Before Soldiers deploy, mobile training teams now educate them on the asymmetric

threat in Iraq, as well as the culture, Iwicki said.

"Our Soldiers on the ground are our most brilliant collectors," Iwicki said. "They see, hear and understand their environment. They sense something is different and out of place."

Patrols will be able to drastically cut the time it takes to file an intelligence report when the new hand-held Commander's Digital Assistants are fielded, Iwicki said. The new Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below CDAs are part of the "Land Warrior" system, but 75 of them are scheduled to be fielded in Iraq first of the year with the 525th MI Brigade, part of the XVIII Airborne Corps.

The CDAs are rugged handheld devices that provide two-way satellite communications. They use some of the same software as Blue Force Tracking, officials said, and can show the locations of snipers or improvised explosive devices as blinking red dots. The CDAs can be used to both display current intelligence information and also to feed reports into the system.

With CDAs, patrols may be able to send an intel report up the chain minutes after an incident, rather than two to six hours later, Iwicki said, after they return to their base.

When Army intelligence officials visited Iraq last year, they found 400,000 patrols had been conducted, but only 6,000 reports had been filed to higher echelons, said Collin Agee, director of intelligence, sensors, and

reconnaissance in G2.

Agee was a panel member in the Actionable Intelligence session Oct. 26 at the annual meeting of the Association of the U.S. Army. He said CDAs should make it easier for patrols to send intelligence forward, and also easier for small units on the move to receive intelligence.

In order for intelligence to be "actionable," it must be delivered to the operational level in time for commanders to act on it, said Lt. Gen. William G. Boykin at the AUSA session.

"Windows (of opportunity) open and close quickly," said Boykin, deputy under secretary of defense for intelligence and warfighting support.

"At coalition level, we must get information where it needs to go," said Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, former Combined Joint Task Force-7 director of intelligence in Baghdad.

In the Cold War, satellite surveillance and signal intelligence could be relied upon to provide the big picture of units on the move, panel members said. But when fighting an insurgency, it's often an individual that is targeted, Fast said.

An example of this approach worked well with the capture of Saddam Hussein, Boykin said.

A series of raids and patrols gathered intelligence, narrowing the search area until Soldiers eventually found the former dictator hiding in a spider hole.

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

Excerpted remarks of the Honorable R. L. Brownlee

Army News Service

The following are excerpted remarks of the Honorable R. L. Brownlee made during his farewell ceremony at Fort Myer, Va., Nov. 29.

... It is a privilege to have served as Under Secretary of the Army for the past three years, and concurrently for the past 18 of those months as the Acting Secretary of the Army. I am honored that President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld allowed me the opportunity to serve as the civilian leader of the Army as our Nation has waged the War on Terror.

... To our Soldiers. I want to speak directly to all of you — serving around the world in over 120 countries.

I believe that Soldiering is an affair of the heart, and it is that spirit, that fundamental commitment to volunteer, to place the Nation's needs above one's own, that makes our Soldiers the best in the world today.

More than any other single group of Americans, you, the men and women of the United States Army — Active, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, and Army Civilians — have made possible the blessings of freedom our Nation has enjoyed for the past two centuries. Your professionalism, dedication, and valor are the hallmarks of the values our Army has upheld for over 229 years of service to our Nation.

With you stand our Army families — the wives, husbands, sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, and other loved ones — who display an equally tremendous commitment. Their

unconditional love and their steadfast loyalty to our Soldiers are invaluable in every aspect of what our Army does — their devotion and support represent all that we fight for and all that we cherish.

Today's Soldiers are following in the footsteps of their personal heroes and role models, their grandparents and parents, who served with honor in World War II, in Korea, in Vietnam, and on other battlefields. Just as many of my generation served multiple tours in Vietnam, so, too, have many of today's Soldiers seen extended and multiple tours of duty in combat in Afghanistan and in Iraq.

The characteristics of service that epitomize our American Soldier today are timeless — they are the same characteristics that have been the hallmark of American Soldiers since the time of the American Revolution. You have tremendous combat skills, resilience, and courage in battle. You demonstrate great initiative and adaptability, as did your predecessors in previous conflicts. And, like previous generations of our Soldiers serving in faraway lands, you display extraordinary empathy and compassion while helping the newly liberated peoples of Iraq and Afghanistan build democratic governments.

Carrying the values and ideals of our Nation, you are lighting the path to democracy for those who have never known it. Our Army is far more than people and equipment — it is made up of men and women with hopes and dreams, a passionate commitment



Staff Sgt. Carmen Burgess

Conducting his final troop inspection, Honorable Les Brownlee walks Summerall Field on Fort Myer, Va., to begin his farewell ceremony Nov. 29 after serving 42 years in government service.

to the ideals of freedom, and the willingness to fight and die for those ideals. But freedom is not free and our successes in the War on Terror are not without cost.

Some of our Soldiers have lost their lives, and we mourn the loss of each and every one. Many have been wounded. I have had the special privilege of being able to visit with many of these brave young men and women as they are treated and begin the recovery from their wounds. I am always amazed and inspired by their spirit, their dedication, and love for their country.

In October I attended the funeral at Arlington National Cemetery of Spc. Brad Beard. His mother, Mrs. "Betsy" Beard, said in a tribute to her son, "The highest complement I can pay you is to call you 'Soldier.' You have exceeded all the expectations I ever had for you."

In the final analysis, through their courage and selfless service, our Soldiers have always answered the call to duty. I am confident, as are the American people, that you will continue to defend

the United States, our freedom, and our way of life.

On the 4th of December, when I awaken, it will be the first morning in 42 years, 9 months, and 3 days when I will not be in the service of my country. But I want to assure every Soldier that all of you will remain in my thoughts and prayers wherever I go. And wherever you go — whatever else you may do in life — whatever other challenges, successes, or failures you may have in life — there is one thing that you have earned and will always have — one thing no one can ever take from you — one thing you will always be able to say, either out loud to others or with quiet pride just to yourself — and that is — I was once an American Soldier. I am humbled and honored to share that bond with you.

Last week I was asked how I would like to be remembered by the Army. I had to admit, I had not thought much about it, but I did recall a quote from a book I had read as a young officer — "Once an Eagle" by Anton Myrer, a novel about a young

Soldier in WWI, a wonderful man who rose to the rank of General Officer in WWII and toward the end of the book says, "That's the whole challenge of life — to act with honor and hope and generosity, no matter what you've drawn. You can't help when or what you were born, you may not be able to help how you die; but you can — and you should — try to pass the days between as a good man." And if those who have served in our Army while I was here might believe that I was a good man who always acted in their best interests — then that is more than I can ask.

It has been a great honor to represent the wonderful men and women who have volunteered to be a part of this great Army — and their families as well. The Nation will be eternally indebted to them for their extraordinary service and sacrifice.

Thank you again for your invaluable service to the Army and the Nation. God bless you all, and God bless this great Nation we all love and so proudly serve. Thank you.

Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

"What is one way to alleviate holiday stress?"

"Spend time with your family and children."

Spc. Matthew Meek
D Co., 4/64 AR



"Only spend what you can afford."

Turessa Pugh
Childcare Center



"Physical fitness because by exercising, you relax the mind and relieve stress."

Staff Sgt. Juan
Serrano
B Co., 4/64 AR



"Leave issues at work and enjoy time with your family."

Sgt. David Truax
B. Co., 3/69 Armor



"Plan ahead and don't wait till the last minute."

Staff Sgt. Leslie
Serrant
3rd SSB



"Have fun and enjoy yourself."

Jesse Powell
DOT



SpC. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
Staff Writer

When I woke up Thanksgiving morning, the first thoughts in my head were of how grateful I was to be an American, living in this great country where my freedom is something that is too often taken for granted.

Well, not really ... that came a bit later in the day. My first thoughts, like just about every other American, were of the fastest route to my local shopping mall, and how early I would have to get up Friday morning in order to find a parking space.

Yes, I was one of the jillions of people who got to experience the overwhelming joy and nausea of what has come to be known as "Black Friday" — the day after Thanksgiving

and the biggest shopping day of the year.

I have to tell you, when I was younger, I was a huge fan of shopping.

I spent all my waking hours at the mall, and even got a job there so I would never have to travel far to spend my entire week's pay. In fact, for several years, I didn't eat anything that wasn't available in a food court or kiosk.

Several years later, though, I have come to realize that the thrill I used to experience as a spend-thrift teenager among endless walls of holiday-priced merchandise has vanished, and has been replaced with the fear of getting trampled by groups of those formidable beings, the desperate sale-rack vultures.

You all know who I'm talking about — the so-called "everyday folks" who, once that fluorescent

mall lighting hits their eyeballs, are on a mission to check off every single item on their lists, no matter what or whom they have to sacrifice to do it.

The vultures are ignorable most of the year, only emerging for Labor Day sales or special promotions, but on Black Friday they come out in full force.

They've waited the entire year to take advantage of these bargains, and they sprint from their vehicles into the shopping centers like the zombies from "Dawn of the Dead" are chasing them, as they leave behind friends and family members who have been deemed "too slow" or "a burden."

Their motto? "Survival of the fittest and most nimble with a shopping cart."

I dodged them successfully for a couple hours, but when I was almost

knocked to the ground by a middle-aged woman on crutches just because my body was partially blocking a set of spoons marked down to 75 percent off, I decided to go home and come back when bodily harm was less likely.

Some of you may ask, "In these days of super-fast technology, why didn't you just stay home and make your purchases online, thus leaving an extra parking space for us?"

"That's a great idea!" I would have to respond.

However, since I am possibly the only human left in this country who does not own a personal computer, I'd have to add that you should all just take your own advice and leave me to wander from store to store in solitary peace.

Now that would be something to be thankful for.

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Pre-deployment support for single Soldiers and couples

Spc. Robert Adams

50th PAD

Before deploying, a Soldier has to take care of many items with one being himself and his family. Discussing the future with loved ones can be hard, but support groups like "Partners in Prevention" can help with the planning process.

The "Partners in Prevention" program is a joint venture between Army Community Services and Winn Army Community Hospital at the behavioral health clinic. The program is a pre-deployment support group for couples and single Soldiers.

Partners in Prevention sessions can be as a group or individually based on what the individual or couple wants, and they focus on many areas, including how to plan ahead for a deployment.

"Separation can cause anxiety for the military family long before actual separa-

tion takes places," said Dr. Dennis K. McCormack, Winn behavioral health clinic supervisory clinical psychologist. "The anticipation of a separation affects all of us and, for some, it means leaving with unresolved issues and conflicts which only seem to worsen with the passage of time."

It is important for a couple to talk about the separation before it is too late.

"Whether it is talking about the spouse who is left behind or getting rid of assumptions, it is important to talk before it is too late," said Cary Sawyer, behavioral health clinic counselor.

Another area of focus during a session is how to utilize personal strengths and areas family members are strong in, like a receiv-ing a further education or taking on a hobby.

Other areas of focus during a session include ways to strengthen and maintain family bonding and developing positive support systems and utilizing available

services.

"It is very important to maintain family bonding and spend time together, for dur-ing this time the Soldier, family and loved ones can discuss their fears and expecta-tions," Sawyer said. "Also having a safety net, a strong positive support system, and people to lean on and talk to is important."

The behavioral health clinic officially took over division mental health affective Nov. 1, and is available to all Soldiers and family members with any needs.

"I want families to walk away with a peace of mind and a relaxed feeling after having open communication and knowing that things will be okay here on the home front," Sawyer said. "Especially Soldiers, because I think once a Soldier knows that their family will be here in tact and function, then that would allow Soldiers to focus on that mission."

The clinic is also going to start support

groups for children as well, with times being announced at a later date, preferably after the deployment has started.

"It is difficult if you have younger children constantly asking whether mom or dad is going to be back, and just missing them as a whole," Sawyer said.

There are also many other services avail-able for families prior to and during the deployment.

"ACS is currently holding their awaiting spouses group and childcare on post is offering free childcare on the first Saturday of every month," Sawyer said. "Also, ACS educators will visit every unit FRG and pro-vide them with stress management and deployment education."

For more information on the "Partners in Prevention" program and other behavioral health clinic programs call 370-6100 or 6111. For more information on ACS family programs call 767-5058 or 5059.

Rare blood infection affecting some troops

Special to the Frontline

Division Surgeon

The Army has identified a rare blood infection in some of the Soldiers return-ing from Iraq, Afghanistan, and other Mideast locations. It is a germ that sever-al antibiotics can cure.

To understand how this has occured, one needs to understand how germs sur-vive. Germs have an adapt and overcome quality. Some of them can mutate after repeated exposures to an antibiotics so that the antibiotic no longer kills them. This is called "antibiotic resistance" and is happening all over the world.

This resistant germ multiplies and causes an infection that is much more difficult to treat. This is one reason mod-ern doctors try not to overuse antibiotics but instead save them for more serious cases.

The germ the Army has identified is called Acinetobacter and is one that grows in large medical center ICU's. The very strongest and most rare germs, such as Acinetobacter, are uncommon and can be found in very large medical centers where alot of people have been treated with strong antibiotics.

Fortunately, large medical centers such as Walter Reed and others, are pre-pared for this phenomenon and have lab-oratory methods to quickly identify the best antibiotic to kill these germs.

During block leave ...

Ways to keep children on track for school

Dave Smith

School Liaison Office

As deployment approach-es, some families may have plans to visit relatives or go on family vacations during block leave. If block leave occurs during a time when children are still in school, consider the following guide-lines to help keep your chil-dren on task with school work:

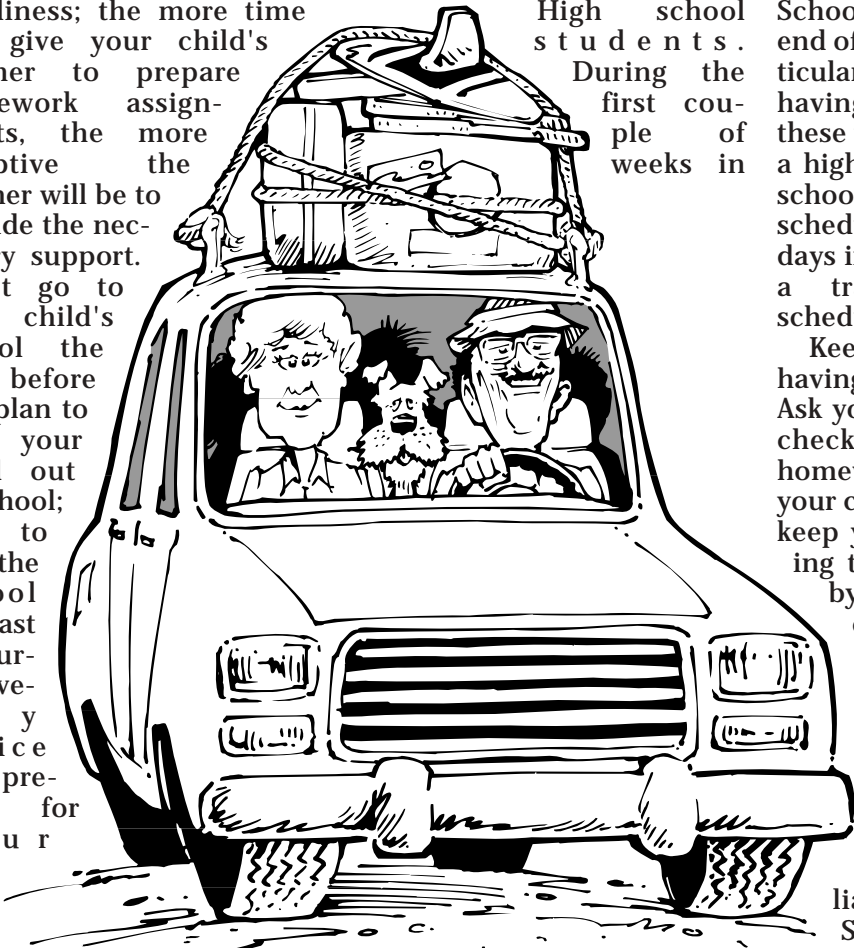
Minimize school absences. Try to plan vacation time around school holidays; if that is not practical, plan a long weekend where children will only miss up to five days of schools. Remember, the longer children are out of school, the harder it is for them to catch up, especially if they are currently having dif-ficulties.

Coordinate with teachers and school administrators. Provide your child's school with a written request that includes your block leave, unit, reason for the school absence and projected dura-tion of the absence. The key is

timeliness; the more time you give your child's teacher to prepare homework assign-ments, the more receptive the teacher will be to provide the nec-essary support.

Don't go to your child's school the day before you plan to take your child out of school; try to give the school at least a four-to five-d a y notice to pre-pare for y o u r

c h i l d ' s absence.



December, high school students will be taking the Georgia High

High school s t u d e n t s .

During the first cou-ple of weeks in

School Graduation test and end of course exams. It is par-ticularly important to avoid having your teenagers miss these tests. Remember having a high student miss a day of school that has a 4x4 block schedule is like missing two days in a high school that has a traditional curriculum schedule.

Keep children on task by having a homework checklist. Ask your child's teacher for a checklist of the upcoming homework assignments that your child will be missing and keep your child on task dur-ing the missed school days by scheduling times to ensure that they com-plete their homework assignments.

Have a safe and thankful holiday sea-son! If you need any school related sup-port, please contact Dave Smith, school liaison officer at Fort Stewart, 767-6533 or Barbara Jenkin, school liaison officer at Hunter Army Airfield, 352-7562.

Army's top enlisted Soldier makes Thanksgiving visit to troops

Staff Sgt. Carmen Burgess

Army News Service

YONGSAN, South Korea — For the second time in his first 10 months on the job, Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston visited Soldiers stationed in South Korea to thank them for their service and to update them on current Army issues.

"From the strategic level it's important right now that you know what's happening in the Army," he told troops during his Nov. 21 to 26 trip to the peninsula. "It's my responsibility to look out for Soldiers and ensure that you are informed."

At each motor pool, dining facility and post theater that he visited, the top enlisted Soldier's message never changed and his enthusiasm and drive never wavered. He continued to talk about the issues that impact Soldiers the most — Army Transformation, deployments, promotions, families, education and the new Army Combat Uniform.

Keeping Soldiers informed is an important issue for Preston. He remembers a time after Desert Shield/Desert Storm when there was a lot of angst and anxiety felt throughout the Army because Soldiers weren't informed about what was down the road, he said.

"I want Soldiers to understand what the senior leaders of the Army are doing for them and to understand the benefits of Army Transformation," he said.

He reminded the troops serving in Korea that the Army's number one mission right now is the Global War on Terrorism. For the first time in its history, the Army is fighting

a war with an all-volunteer force and this is subsequently putting pressure on those throughout its ranks.

With the growing number of year-long unit deployments, he said he wants Soldiers to know that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and the Army is making changes that will positively benefit them and their families.

Preston said with the increase in the number of brigades and the introduction of "life cycles" for units, troops should see a reduction in the length and frequency of deployments and can anticipate lengthier periods between permanent change-of-station moves, which will create more stability for families.

For example, if Soldiers spend the majority of their careers at one installation then their spouses will have the opportunity to have a career versus a job. Employers will likely be more willing to invest time and money into an individual if they anticipate that person will be there for a longer period of time, he said.

The sergeant major also pointed out educational benefits for Army dependents.

High school students will be more competitive with those in the civilian world for things such as academic and athletic scholarships if they spend a significant period of time at one school.

Preston reminded the Soldiers that the senior Army leadership appreciated their service to their country and that they weren't forgotten during the holiday season.

"We are proud of what all of you are doing here," he said. "Anyone who has ever visited the demilitarized zone knows that



Staff Sgt. Carmen Burgess

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston talks to 2nd Infantry Division Soldiers at Camp Hovey during his trip to the Republic of Korea Nov. 21 to 26.

there is a real threat just north of the border. We are here for a reason and our friendship with the Republic of Korea is an important one."

"You are part of the next greatest genera-

tion of heroes. Whether you are here on 'freedom's frontier,' serving on drill sergeant duty or patrolling some mountain trail in Afghanistan, your contributions are important and much appreciated."

SECURITY

from page 1A

The S-2 of a unit or security manager of a organization handles security issues and is the one who does the leg work for security matters in the unit. Personnel in the S-2 office confer with the commander on form completion and recommendations for continued access. However, if any negative report is withheld from the S-2, he will not know. All adverse reports are submitted via



Jennifer Wingfield

Spc. April Hampton, HHC, 1st Brigade finance specialist, receives fingerprint training from PSI Security Assistant Ollie K. Washington.

DA Form 5248-R to the CCF at Fort Meade. There the information is reviewed and a security determination is made. CCF will either reaffirm or forward a memorandum of intent to either revoke or deny the security clearance.

“PSI here does not have any control over the letters of intent from Meade,” Cahill said. “Once they are suspended there, it is suspended.” The only thing we can do here is to assist the person in preparing their rebuttal statement.”

Therein lies the saving grace. CCF offers due process, Cahill said. “You are given the opportunity to provide a rebuttal statement to explain or mitigate the issues in question.” S-2 personnel will work with the soldier to help gather supporting documentation needed for a favorable security clearance decision. In the event that the CCF revokes or denies the security clearance, the individual still has an appeal option through the Personnel Security Appeals Board located in Washington.

Reporting all incidents to the CCF will accomplish one of two things: a chance to explain that a person is eligible to maintain their security clearance or to explain why a person should have their clearance taken away.

As the instrumental gatekeepers, PSI has on-line databases that show all Department of Defense investigations.

“A review is conducted every time someone is hired or tries to get network access. If we note that there is a police report that was never reported to CCF, in most cases, we cannot hire or allow you access to classified defense information,” Cahill said.

“The on-line database only notes that a person was the subject of a police report,” Cahill added.

On-line databases do not provide details concerning the police report. Without detailed information, employ-

ment suitability determinations are often made solely on the existence of a police file. Interviews are often conducted to ascertain information explaining the file. Often, an unresolved police file is the reason why applicants are denied employment or a position with a federal contractor.

“Think about your life? Wouldn’t you want CCF to know your side of the story?” asks Cahill. When you don’t provide the report to CCF, there is no circumstance reported behind the incident. All they have on hand is the police report. CCF requires detailed information for them to make an accurate adjudication.

But what if your command did report the incident? The S-2 or security manager is required to send out the report to CCF, Fort Meade and tell of the circumstances surrounding it, Cahill said. “The commander can state his recommendations. He may include such things as how the person is a wonderful officer/noncommissioned officer, capable to perform the mission, potential for outstanding achievements, etc. Please continue his access.”

When this happens, CCF will pull up the police report and make an assessment whether the soldier still has those character traits that are necessary for the protection and safeguarding of our nation’s most sensitive information.

When Soldiers PCS here or to another installation, they may not be able to revalidate their clearance. It is all because of the unresolved information or police file noted on their records. In some instances this may impact upon the mission of the unit the soldier is being assigned to, some personnel may be assigned to key positions requiring immediate access to classified information.

The same information applies across the board to civilians as well. Civilian

supervisors are also required to report information on their employees to CCF. There is no double standard, the requirement to report information to CCF is required for all personnel who work for the federal government.

“For applicants applying for a position at Fort Stewart, there is a system in place that before a job is obligated to the employee, the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center will receive a favorable determination from my office” Cahill said. Not all derogatory information is considered a disqualifying factor; however when the information falls within certain adjudicative standards, the employment offer may be withdrawn.

Many of the revocations are related to financial obligations and can be explained.

“These are all common sense matters,” explained Cahill. “Pay your bills. Don’t drink and drive. Don’t do acts of felony or violence. All of these can affect a security clearance. The ultimate responsibility for maintaining continued eligibility for a position of trust rests with the individual. It is a privilege to have a security clearance, not a constitutional right.”

The local military police blotters and criminal investigation reports also impede clearances.

“Our office reviews all of those reports. When the offenses are serious, we suspend or restrict the person’s access. Commanders then have to make recommendations for access,” Cahill said.

Statements explaining police reports are accepted. Depending on the explanation, Cahill is authorized to continue your access.

This information and more can be found in the security Army Regulation 380-67, The Department of the Army Personnel Security Program.

Savannah port takes on 3rd Inf. Div.'s equipment

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
3rd Inf. Div.

In preparation for the 3rd Infantry Division's upcoming deployment, vehicles and aircraft belonging to its units are being transported to the Port of Savannah, where they are loaded onto ships and carried across the sea.

Many of the machines being worked on there Nov. 23 were Apaches which had just been flown in by 3rd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment in Fort Bragg, N.C.

"All we're doing here is taking the blades off (of the aircraft)," said Capt. Merv Brott, C Company, 3/3 Avn. company commander. "Things are going very smoothly ... it might look like there's not much going on here, but that's just an indication of a well-thought-out plan."

After the aircraft were taken apart, they were shrink-wrapped to ensure protection during their long trip.

"The shrink wrap protects the aircraft from debris, and keeps most of the salt water

from rusting them," explained Sgt. Thomas Christian, a B Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment flight engineer.

Although civilian contractors are the ones doing all the dirty work down at the port nowadays, Christian said he and his crew wrapped up their own Chinooks during past deployment preparations.

"It's a team effort," he said. "It's a pain in the butt to do it ... but from my own experience, we've gotten 12 aircraft done in two days."

Although the careful process that goes along with transporting heavy machinery overseas is no piece of cake (according to Christian), it is a necessity for those who want their equipment to be functional in combat.

Of course, the completion of the process is the best part, according to Brott, because it means the unit can move on to its next pre-deployment task.

"We're pretty excited," he said. "And all the guys in the battalion are excited, which feels pretty good."



Photos by Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

(Above) An Apache lands at the Savannah port to prepare for shipment Nov. 23

(Below) Track vehicles belonging to various Hunter and Stewart units await shipment to Iraq at the Savannah port.



Recently-shrink-wrapped Chinooks sit in a hangar at the port until they are transported overseas.



Task Force Eagle leaving Bosnia

Jason Austin

U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

TUZLA, Bosnia — Just like the 14 rotations before them, the Cyclone Soldiers of the 38th Infantry Division (Mechanized), Indiana National Guard, are packing up and preparing to go home. However, this Stabilization Force rotation will end differently than previous rotations.

Task Force Eagle, the U.S.-led effort of the SFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina, will case its colors during a disestablishment ceremony Nov. 24.

"It's appropriate now for the Army," said Gen. B.B. Bell, U.S. Army Europe commander. "That's why we're here today, as the last vestige of this great joint and combined force under North Atlantic Treaty Organization and under EUCOM, to finally disestablish the Army component of this joint, combined, magnificent team."

EUFOR to take over mission

The close of the nine-year mission of TF Eagle is part the completion of the SFOR mission and the inauguration of the European Union Force. The EUFOR is a coalition involving 33 countries, 11 of which are non-EU members.

The EUFOR will reinforce the EU's political engagement, its assistance programs and its ongoing police and monitoring missions, officials said, to help BiH continue to progress toward European integration.

"There are a lot of things that still need to be done which the follow-on EU forces will continue," said Brig. Gen. T.J. Wright, TF Eagle's final commander.

"Bosnia still has a way to go politically and economically to be a viable front-line country in the world today," said retired Maj. Gen. William Nash, the commander of 1st Armored Division at the onset of TF Eagle, and the Task Force's first commander. "But boy o' boy they are so much better today than they were nine years ago."

Dayton Accord launched IFOR

Almost nine years ago, on Dec. 16, 1995, NATO launched the largest military operation ever undertaken by the Alliance with the Implementation Force or IFOR, in an effort to enforce the General Framework Agreement for Peace, negotiated in Dayton, Ohio, and generally referred to as the Dayton Peace Accord.

The Dayton Peace Accord brought to an end a four-year civil war which is estimated

to have left more than 200,000 people dead.

"It's important to understand that prior to the Dayton Peace Accord, the people of Bosnia — the Serbs, the Croats and the Bosniacs — were involved in a terribly tragic long-standing conflict; a war between three peoples that had gone on for nearly four years," Nash said. "There was a great deal of destruction."

"Bosnia looked like the end of a major war," said retired Lt. Gen. John Abrams, USAREUR's V Corps commander during the onset of TF Eagle. "It had earmarks of territories where large armies had engaged in combat. Buildings were destroyed; every bridge in Bosnia ... had been damaged or completely destroyed."

Civil War included 'ethnic cleansing'

The war began in 1992 when, following Slovenia and Croatia's lead, Bosnia and Herzegovina declared its independence from the six-republic nation of Yugoslavia. Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic sent the Yugoslav national army April 5, 1992, along with Serb nationalist forces, into eastern Bosnia to quell the secession.

Serbian rebels (Orthodox Christians) were already conducting "ethnic cleansing" in Croatia and continued these practices in Bosnia. Croats (Roman Catholic) also began a campaign of "ethnic cleansing" killing Bosnian Muslims.

As a result, the United Nations sent a peacekeeping force, the U.N. Protection Force or UNPROFOR, to establish peace.

U.N. failed to keep peace

"My assessment at the time was that the U.N. was following a bankrupt strategy," said retired Gen. George Joulwan, Supreme Allied Commander Europe during IFOR. "They were peacekeepers and there was no peace to keep. To me, it was only a matter of time until NATO would have to get involved."

"In Europe it brought back all kinds of concern and fear. So, it was an issue of credibility for the Alliance and since (the United States is a) lead member of that alliance, it was very important for the United States to lead, not just militarily but politically as well."

The efforts of then U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Holbrooke, as well as NATO air strikes against Serbian positions and a successful Muslim and Croat offensive against the Serbs in Western Bosnia, helped set the stage for the Dayton Peace Accord.

In addition to political involvement, the



Photo by Jason Austin

Guards at Eagle Base Bosnia complete a roving patrol at the Pedestrian gate of Eagle Base days before the Task Force Eagle disestablishment ceremony, Nov. 24.

U.S. was destined to become involved militarily, and on Dec. 20, 1995, the UNPROFOR transferred authority in the northern sector to the 1st Armored Division.

IFOR brings peace

"The United States' long-term involvement with NATO came to fruition when 60,000 Soldiers, less than 20,000 of which were Americans, went to the Balkans in December of 1995," Nash said.

"The United States entered Bosnia from the North, complimenting forces it had already put in by air to Tuzla and the flood of the 1st Armored Division overcame the flood of the Sava River and peace was brought to that area of the world," Bell said.

With that long-standing peace comes an end to the primary mission of SFOR to provide security and stability for the region.

"We came here for one year, it's nine years later, it's time for us to go," Wright said. "We took a country that was devastated and helped them stand themselves back up and get back on their feet and I think they will be a contributing member of the European community in the future."

Small U.S. force to remain

The disestablishment of TF Eagle does not, however, mark the end of NATO or U.S. involvement in Bosnia, officials said.



Photo by Maj. Markus Novose

A TF Eagle convoy nears the Liaison and Observation Team house in Bratunac. TF Eagle has several LOT houses to assist citizens in the local community.

"NATO will maintain a small, but meaningful headquarters in Sarajevo. Also the United States will contribute small but important numbers of forces that will be stationed both in Sarajevo and at Eagle Base in Tuzla," Bell said.

Nash, TF Eagle's first commander, said he will "look back with pride and say that I'm glad we are disestablishing TF Eagle, because that means the work is done."

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Public Safety
Fort Stewart Public Safety officials announced Nov. 28 that the vehicle registration office has moved from its old location in building 295 to building 102. Building 102 is the new brick building located at the main gate to Fort Stewart.

All vehicles requiring a pass to enter Stewart or re-new their registration should enter Stewart's main gate in the far right lane to gain access to building 102.

For more information call 767-5195/1721 or the Military Police Desk 24 hours daily at 767- 4895.

Tree Lighting Ceremony
The tree lighting ceremony and arrival of Santa Claus is scheduled for Dec. 9, 5 p.m. on the front lawn of Bldg. 1.

Ribbon cutting ceremony
The Dental Clinic #4 has scheduled their grand re-opening Tuesday, 1 p.m. The clinic has undergone a multi-million dollar renovation and will be tentatively open for business Dec. 13. and will provide Specialty Dental Care for Fort Stewart and Hunter.

Wild Adventurers
Buses depart Bldg. 443 Dec.18, 8 a.m. for Wild Adventurers Theme Park in Valdosta, Ga., returning 8 p.m.
The cost is \$43 per person and includes transportation and admission. For more information call 767-8609.

Red Cross CPR Instructors
If you are a current CPR/First Aid Instructor with the American Red Cross, you need to register with the Savannah Chapter - Liberty Branch to keep your certification current.
You can call (912) 876-3975 or visit the local office in the Winn-Dixie Shopping Center between Goodwill and Pro-Feet for more information.

Special Olympics
The Fort Stewart community will host Special Olympics Friday, 9 a.m. at Marne and Stewart Lanes.

Hinesville Christmas Parade
The Hinesville/Fort Stewart community will have their annual Christmas Day Parade scheduled for Saturday, 6 p.m. in Hinesville.

Hunter

Christmas Tree Lighting
The Hunter Christmas tree lighting is scheduled for Dec. 8 at 4:45 p.m. in front of garrison headquarters.
Refreshments will be available and Santa Claus will make an appearance for the children.

Christmas Toy Drive
The Hunter Commissary is conducting a Toy Drive now through Dec. 18 to collect toys to be distributed to needy military families based at Hunter. The commissary is asking for new, unwrapped toys for boys and girls ages 2 through 12.
Contact Marcus McDonald or Linda Harrington at 352-5007/5711 for more information.

Road Closure
Due to the installation of a new sewer line, the intersections of Gannam Ave. and S. Perimeter Rd. (near the youth sports fields) and Gannam Ave. between Farie Dr. and Oliver Ave. will be closed to vehicular traffic until Dec. 10. During these dates, motorists may access Wilson Acres housing area by the side street off

Wilson Blvd. In the vicinity of the Wilson Gate.

Wild Adventurers
Buses depart Outdoor Recreation Area Dec.18, 8 a.m. for Wild Adventurers Theme Park in Valdosta, Ga., and return at 8 p.m. The cost is \$43 per person and includes transportation and admission.
For more information call 767-8609.

Hayride lights tour
Participants meet at ACS, Dec. 20, 6 p.m. for tour of the holiday lights on post and return at 7 p.m. for hot apple cider.

Jazzercise
Jazzercise programs are being offered at the Hunter Army Airfield Fitness Center Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9-10 a.m. Classes are free; sign up at any time. For more information call Lori O'Neill at 459-0161.

Winterize Your Boat
Class will be held at Outdoor Recreation Center Dec. 11 at 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information call 352-5722.

Winn /Tuttle

Health Fair Dec. 11
Join us at Winn Dec. 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Winn Health Fair. This will be a chance to learn about your health care resources, but it is also an opportunity to have some healthy interactive fun.

Get your flu shot. Eligible beneficiaries are those who meet the following criteria and have a valid military ID:

- adults aged 65 years and older;
 - persons aged 2-64 years with underlying chronic medical conditions;
 - all women who will be pregnant during the influenza season;
 - residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities;
 - children aged 6 months-18 years on chronic aspirin therapy;
 - health-care workers involved in direct patient care; and
 - out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children under age 6 months.
- Learn** your foot type so you can find the best shoes for you.
Learn how you really see while intoxicated through DUI Goggles.

Do you know how to seek health care outside of the area? Do you have other TRICARE or dental questions?
Need to know who your Primary Care Manager is?
Interested in losing or gaining weight? Do you know how to maintain your current weight?
Do you have questions about your medication?
How about a quick class on how to use TRICARE Online?
For more information, call 370-6662.

Holiday Schedule
Tuttle will be closed Dec. 23, 24 and 31. Services at Winn will be limited Dec. 23, 24 and 31. The Winn main pharmacy will be open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dec. 23.

Update DEERS
Beneficiaries must keep their DEERS information up-to-date. Winn and Tuttle use DEERS information to contact you regarding referrals and appointments. DEERS information can be updated by calling 1-800-538-9552, visiting: www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm or stopping by Building 253.

Marne TV

December 2004 Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every weekday.
Tune in to the Marne Report six times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.

5 a.m. Army Newswatch
5:30 a.m. MARNE REPORT
6:30 a.m. Air Force News
7 a.m. Navy News
7:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
8 a.m. MARNE REPORT
9 a.m. Air Force News
9:30 a.m. Navy News
11:30 a.m. Army Newswatch
Noon MARNE REPORT

1 p.m. Air Force News
4:30 p.m. Navy News
5 p.m. MARNE REPORT
6 p.m. Army Newswatch
6:30 p.m. Air Force News
7 p.m. Navy News
10 p.m. MARNE REPORT
11 p.m. Army Newswatch
MidnightMARNE REPORT

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POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Private, 26-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** possession of drug paraphernalia
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 29-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Driving while license suspended
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Reckless driving (83/55), no passing zone
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Wrongful possession of marijuana, wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charges:** Carnal knowledge, indecent acts upon a child
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Staff Sgt., 39-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Assault consummated by a battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** 1st Sgt., 36-year-old male, Avn. Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence (alcohol), possession



- of open container, speeding, following too closely
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old female, separate unit
- **Charges:** Frauds against the United States, larceny of private property, conspiracy
- **Location:** Kuwaiti International Airport, KU
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Failure to obey gen-

- ing drag
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Assault consummated by a battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Disorderly conduct (striking police animal), interference with government property
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, Fires Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, possession of alcohol by a person under 21, speeding 72/45
- **Location:** Liberty County
- **Subject:** Staff Sgt., 28-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charge:** Indecent assault
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Assault consummated with a battery, underage drinking
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

Keeping Military Families
Connected

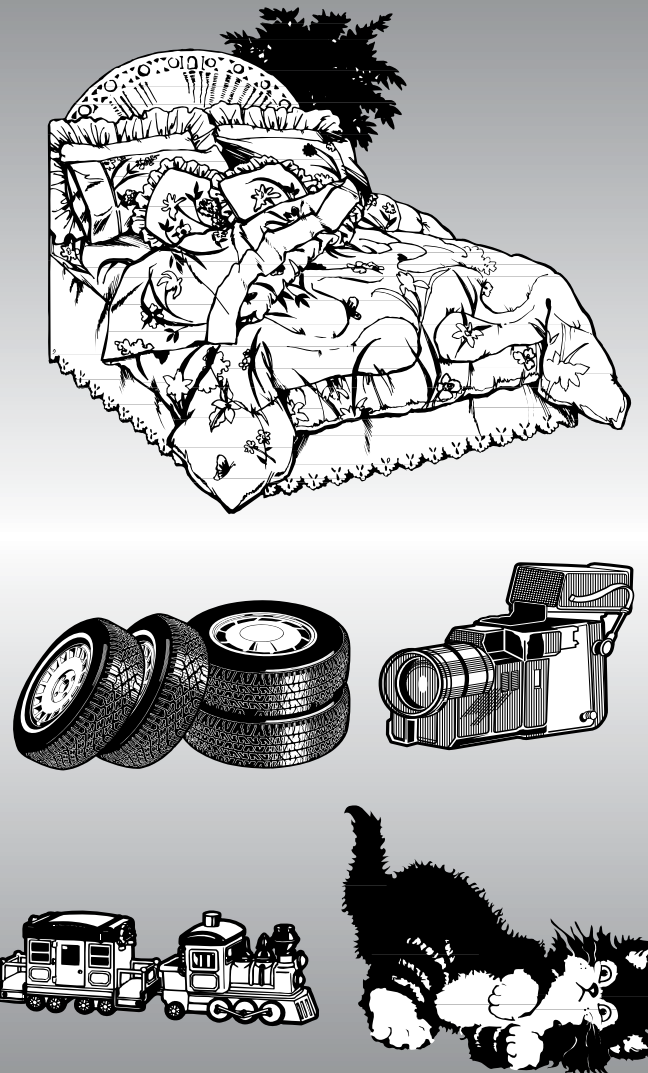


THROUGH OUR WIDE-SPREADING COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, the American Red Cross helps military service members and their families stay connected during times of personal crisis. We offer emergency care, information and social services where you and your family need it most. Your financial support makes this lifesaving network possible. To learn more, visit www.redcross.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. We're here to help you stay connected. Thank you for your support.



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Army science conference attracts field professionals, music video crew

Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Army News Service

ORLANDO, Fla. — Since 1957, the science that makes warfighting possible has brought together top minds in the field for a biennial collective look at new developments and unfolding technologies.

About 1,500 government, academic and industry leaders are gathered this week for the 24th Army Science Conference, which for the first time includes participation from allies and coalition partners. Industry and academic partners joined at the last conference, two years ago.

Thirty-one countries are represented this year, said John Parmentola, director for research and laboratory management in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army Acquisition, Logistics and Technology.

Fifty-four technologies — from liquid body armor and a nasal-spray painkiller to an artificial exomuscle that may someday be capable of binding wounds or giving cardio-pulmonary resuscitation — are also highlighted in the conference exhibit hall.

The focus this year is on the needs of the current force, as well as speeding up future force technologies, according to conference officials. Technologies like miniaturization and virtual reality will become common in the near future, said Ray Kurzweil, founder and chief executive officer of Kurzweil Technologies, Inc.

Kurzweil, who was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2002, was the principal developer of first-ever technologies: the omni-font optical character recognition, print-to-speech reading machine for the blind, CCD flat-bed scanner, text-to-speech synthesizer, music synthesizer capable of recreating the grand piano and other orchestral instruments and commercial

large-vocabulary speech recognition.

Human knowledge of information technology, computer technology and health science is doubling annually, he said. In nearly every area, “We are experiencing exponential growth in knowledge.”

Sgt. Major of the Army Kenneth Preston thanked the scientists, engineers and others whose work has led to technologies currently being used in conflict areas like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Remote-controlled robots, for example, are aiding in investigating suspicious items that may contain improvised explosive devices. Soldiers can check the items from a safe distance, greatly reducing the threat of death or injury, Preston said.

A large balloon that looms over Victory Base in Baghdad is a floating platform that houses a J Lens system that allows Soldiers to view large sections of the city surrounding them, he added. Improved body armor like small arms protective inserts, also known as SAPI plates, are also making a big difference, Preston said.

“I’ve seen first hand the technology that many of you helped design that’s keeping our Soldiers alive,” Preston said. “Their success is, in many ways, your success.”

Vice Chief of Staff Gen. Richard Cody gave an update on Army transformation from the Pentagon through video teleconferencing. The Honorable Michael Wynne, Acting Undersecretary for Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), also used the technology to address the audience.

When asked to name three top problems the Army would like scientists and engineers to prioritize, Cody asked for more work on intelligence-gathering technology that gives battlefield command



Sgt. Lorie Jewell

Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth Preston tours the exhibit area of the 24th Army Science Conference with a group of Soldiers. The conference, held every two years, brings together government, industry and educational professionals who work to advance Army science and technology.

ders more concise and quickly-understood information; technology that allows vehicles and equipment to consume less fuel and generate more water; and more tactical mobility and agility in the Future Combat Systems.

A New York City-based production crew from the music television video channel MTV2 is also at the conference, with a handful of other media, to document the conference for a new show called High Tech Theater that will debut in February.

The show will highlight the latest in technology, targeting male viewers aged 12 to 24, said producer Jodi Lahaye.

The crew is focusing on military technology that will also make its way into the civilian market, said creative director Shawn Mattaro. Bendable television screens — officially known as flexible display technology — medical robots and holographics have caught the crew’s attention. Clips of their footage will air over a three-month span, Mattaro said.

“What better place to come?” Lahaye said. “The Army has the coolest stuff, clearly.”

Army-funded research has led to many technologies that are common today, according to conference information materials.

For example:

•Lasers in weapon systems stemmed from the work of Charles Townes of Columbia University; Nicolaas Bloembergen of Harvard University and Arthur Schawlow of Stanford & Bell Labs. Townes was awarded the 1964 Nobel Prize in Physics; Bloembergen and Schawlow shared that same honor in 1981.

•Discoveries by Gerald Zacharias and Hans Dehmelt, another Nobel Prize winner for physics, led to the development of atomic clocks that make possible the global positioning system, or GPS.

Walter Reed breaks ground for amputee training center

Bernard S. Little

Walter Reed Army Medical Center

WASHINGTON — Military officials joined recovering service members in breaking ground Nov. 19 for a new multi-million-dollar amputee training center being built at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

The center is expected to be completed in December 2005 at a cost of \$10 million. The 29,000-square-foot facility will be able to support about 300 appointments a week, planners said. It will include a combined-function running track, rope- and rock-climbing wall, gait lab, military vehicle simulators, and other training areas.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and new Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis J. Harvey were among those participating in the groundbreaking ceremony.

"The Military Amputee Training Center will provide a structure to bring together all aspects of amputee patient care," said Charles Scoville, program manager for the U.S. Army Amputee Patient Care Program.

The center will also bring together all of the services caring for Walter Reed's amputee patients, including social work, Veterans Affairs counselors, and the staff of physical medicine and rehabilitation service (which includes occupational therapy, physical therapy, and prosthetics).

"The facility is designed to return patients to the highest levels of activity, and to provide a place where research can be done to share our advances in rehabilitation and prosthetic design with all amputee patients," Scoville said.

Maj. Gen. Kenneth L. Farmer, commanding general of the North Atlantic Regional

Medical Command and Walter Reed, praised "the record time" at which the project "has gone from concept to reality." He credited "the dynamic leadership and support of congressional appropriations committees" along with individual senators and congressmen.

Farmer said the amputee center is a continuation of Army medicine's long history of "taking care of the nation's Soldiers and wounded-in-action" that began during the American Revolution. He said Walter Reed has been a part of this history since it first opened its doors to 10 patients in 1909, and that the military "has played a vital role in advancing the art and science of medicine."

The amputee center will provide a place for the military's continued "innovative thinking and technological advances so today's wounded warriors can receive unprecedented levels of care that are the best that can be found anywhere," Farmer said.

Walter Reed patients continue to "amaze and inspire," Farmer said. Everyday, he said, visitors come to Walter Reed to cheer up patients. "Everyday, those visitors leave, having been cheered up."

"It is a Soldier from this very mold I asked to be our guest speaker," Farmer said in introducing retired Army Gen. Frederick M. Franks Jr.

In May 1970, Franks was wounded in action in Cambodia. After having his leg amputated below the knee and rehabilitation at Valley Forge General Hospital, he was permitted to remain on active duty and returned to active service in early 1972. Franks subsequently commanded Seventh Army Training Command, 1st Armored Division, and VII Corps in Germany.



Lt. Col. Michael Negard

Officials break ground in a ceremony for the Amputee Training Center at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

As VII Corps commanding general, Franks led the 146,000 U.S. and British forces during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm that attacked over 250 kilometers in 89 hours as part of the coalition that liberated Kuwait in February 1991.

Franks said the commitment of "wounded warriors" to their fellow service members and country "are striking." He also praised medics and corpsmen, who "stand between life and death" on the battlefield.

"They are the first of many who will reach out and help us back up again," Franks said of medics.

To troops injured and recovering, Franks said, "It's not getting knocked down that's important, it is the getting back up again and going on. It is the reaching inside and finding that steel in all of us."

Franks said the groundbreaking for the amputee training center continues to fulfill the military's promise to never leave a fallen comrade behind.

Army updates sexual assault policy

Sgt. 1st Class Shaun Herron

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — New Army guidance on sexual assault prevention and response was released Nov. 12, and will be included in the upcoming revision of AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, in 2005.

The new guidance is one of several steps the Army has recently taken to re-emphasize that any offense of sexual assault is inconsistent with Army Values and Warrior Ethos, officials said.

In addition to the new policy guidance for commanders, the Army has launched a Web site at www.sexualassault.army.mil, to

promote steps leaders and Soldiers at all levels can take to prevent and respond to instances of potential sexual assault. Included in this Web site are links to training materials developed by Training and Doctrine Command.

Sexual assault prevention training will be part of initial entry training, semi-annual training, installation in-processing and pre-deployment training for all Soldiers. The website also includes links to additional resources for victims of sexual assault, and a checklist for commanders to help the recovery of sexual assault victims.

The newly launched Sexual

Assault Web site and incorporation of the new Army guidance into AR 600-20 reinforces Army leadership's ongoing commitment to ensuring that adequate prevention programs and policies are in place, said Col. Paris Mack, chief, Human Factors Division, Human Resources & Policy Directorate, G-1.

It will also ensure that soldiers who are victims of sexual assault receive proper treatment, medical and psychological care; that the chain of command will provide full support, dignity and confidentiality to victims; and that any reported incidents of sexual assault will be, "fully investigated

and acted upon through the military criminal justice system," Mack said.

These efforts are the first steps at incorporating the recommendations of an Army task force that conducted a 90-day detailed review of the Army's policies and programs on sexual assault. That task force issued an 80-page report with 24 recommendations to improve the system.

When looking for ways to improve the Army's policies and programs, the task force sought advice from outside agencies to include the Department of Veteran Affairs; National Organization of Victim

Assistance; Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN); The Miles Foundation; Navy; Coast Guard; the University of Arizona and Purdue University in Indiana.

Both universities were given grants from the Department of Justice for their prevention programs, and the age category for Soldiers who report assaults and their assailants are in the same age category as the university students. Nearly 84 percent of alleged perpetrators were identified as junior Soldiers, and 95 percent of the victims were Soldiers in the rank of staff sergeant and below.

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Authorization Act funds 3.5 percent troop pay raise, cuts housing costs

Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — Money contained within the 2005 National Defense Authorization Act will fund a 3.5 percent troop pay raise and eliminate servicemembers' out-of-pocket costs for family housing, DoD's top military personnel official noted.

The January troop pay raise will be applied across the board to all servicemembers and won't feature pay hikes targeted to specific ranks as in past years, David S. C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, said during a recent Pentagon interview.

The targeted raises issued to mid-level officers and noncommissioned officers over the past two years, Chu explained, "have fixed," for now, most pay disparity

issues involving those ranks.

And, he noted, money is contained in the 2005 act to boost allowances that now eliminate servicemembers' out-of-pocket expenses used for on- or off-post family housing. Stateside and overseas family housing allowances are calculated according to regional markets.

Another provision in the 2005 NDAA removes a previously established ceiling limiting how much military family-housing inventory could be privatized, Chu said.

Privatization enables DoD to modernize its military family housing more quickly and efficiently, Chu said. About one-third of military families live in on-post housing.

If DoD funded all of its existing family-housing needs by itself, Chu explained, it would take the department "forever" to make needed repairs or to replace aging

housing units largely built in the 1950s.

Chu pointed to privatization success stories, such as contractor-provided housing for soldiers and their families at Fort Carson, Colo. Such private sector-provided housing offers contemporary quality and "design flair" for servicemembers while providing more bang for the buck for taxpayers.

The act also contains three special pay and bonus authorities, Chu noted. For example, the bill makes permanent the increase to military family separation pay to \$250 a month and likewise hostile fire/imminent danger pay at \$225 a month.

The bill also provides "a much stronger set" of re-enlistment bonuses for Guard and Reserve members.

Chu said the '05 NDAA ensures that troops in the field receive the equipment

and other material they require to successfully prosecute the global war against terrorism.

The bill also provides extended health coverage for some reservists, Chu noted, as well as better Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits.

Another change contained in the '05 NDAA enables reservists to be called up for training before possible overseas deployment. This, Chu pointed out, is a more efficient means of force management.

A major highlight of military personnel management during his tenure, Chu observed, involves successive increases in troop compensation.

"The president has been willing to carry the torch for us to argue for significant pay increases," Chu noted, as well as to reduce and eventually eliminate servicemembers' out-of-pockets costs for military housing.

Army helicopters borrow NASCAR windshield technology

Donna Miles
American Forces Press Release

WASHINGTON — A laminate that protects NASCAR racecar windshields from rocks and debris will soon give extra protection to Army helicopters flying in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Army's Aviation Applied Technology Directorate at Fort Eustis, Va., started testing the concept in March and just got the green light to begin applying the Mylar polyester coating to the windshields of operational aircraft.

Nathan Bordick, an engineer working on the project, said the Army borrowed the idea from NASCAR, where teams have been applying multiple layers of the peelable coatings to vehicle

windshields for years to resist cracking, chipping and scratching. Periodically throughout a race, pit crews peel away a layer, leaving a clear, undamaged windshield for the laps ahead, he said.

Field tests on Black Hawk and Chinook helicopters showed that the coatings, which cost about \$100 to apply, could significantly extend the life of aircraft windshields, which run \$3,000 to \$5,000 a piece, Bordick said.

First priority for the new coatings will go to helicopters flying in Iraq and Afghanistan, where sand and harsh desert conditions quickly batter windshields and render them unsafe. But, Bordick said, the Army would eventually like to

add the coatings to all its aircraft windshields.

The coatings go on much like a typical window tint, Bordick said, but must be applied in a relatively controlled environment — inside a building or hangar or within a bag constructed around the aircraft. Initially, the coating will be applied at the depot level, but the Army will begin training aircraft maintenance crews to apply it themselves, he said.

Bordick called the Army's use of a ready-made solution to its windshield problem a "proactive" decision that's saving tax dollars. "This is an example of incorporating technology for military uses so we don't have to reinvent the wheel," he said.

Department of Defense makes Announcement Troop Extensions for Iraq

DOD News Release
Armed Forces Press Release

Today the Secretary of Defense approved a request by the Commander of Multi-National Forces-Iraq (MNF(I)) to extend two Army brigades and a Marine Expeditionary Unit operating in Iraq. The Secretary also approved the Commander's request for two additional infantry battalions to deploy to Iraq.

General George Casey, Commander, MNF-I, requested the extension of the units, as they are the most experienced and best-qualified forces to sustain the momentum of post-Fallujah operations and to provide for additional security for the upcoming elections, in conjunction with the Iraqi Security forces.

The United States Army's 2nd Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, the 2nd Brigade 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas and the United States Marine Corps' 31st

Marine Expeditionary Unit, Okinawa, Japan, will be extended beyond their current rotation dates.

This extension also includes the 66th Transportation Company, Kleber Kasern, Germany. The length of extension varies between the units. Two battalions from the 82nd Airborne Division will deploy to Iraq for an anticipated duration of approximately 120 days to support security efforts during the election period.

This approved request adds an additional 1,500 active duty soldiers, and extends approximately 10,400 active duty combat forces, which includes 2,300 Marines from the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit off of the ESSEX Expeditionary Strike Group. This extension is in conjunction with the current force rotation, and will increase the U. S. forces in theater from 17 to 20 brigades, increasing the force size in Iraq to approximately 150,000 personnel during the election period.

Course trains 'select few' on biological warfare agents

Caree Vander Linden

Special to American Forces Press Service

FORT DETRICK, Md., — The narrow gravel path leads to a cluster of mobile tactical shelters at Fort Detrick's "Area B," 400 acres of farmland on this Maryland base. A brown sign marks the Field Identification of Biological Warfare Agents, or FIBWA, Laboratory Training Site. Inside, the air conditioning is blasting while Top 40 music plays from a portable stereo atop a file cabinet. Two laboratories, each with four workstations, adjoin a central tactical shelter that serves as a conference room.

In this nondescript setting, eight students at a time learn to set up, maintain, and operate a deployable laboratory under field conditions. The four-week, hands-on FIBWA course offers training in the most advanced field technologies for confirming identification of biological-warfare agents. Developed by the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, FIBWA is the only course of its kind in the Defense Department.

According to Mark Wolcott, head of the field operations and training branch within USAMRIID's diagnostic systems division, FIBWA grew out of the need for battlefield detection of biological warfare agents. As field detectors were developed and deployed, the ability to confirm what the detectors were "seeing" was crucial to add confidence for battlefield, medical, and National Command Authority decisions. The requirement for a deployable BW agent confirmation laboratory was born.

Since the FIBWA course was first offered in 1999, nearly 200 students from the military services and other government agencies have attended. To ensure that the training stays on the cutting edge, concepts of operations and diagnostic materials, equipment and technology are continually evaluated and transitioned into the field.

Bill Dorman is the FIBWA training coordinator. A former noncommissioned officer, he came on board as a civilian during the first course in 1999. At that time, USAMRIID had put together a laboratory/training package at the request of U.S. Central Command, which wanted its own full-time lab capability. The demand grew, and there are now six laboratories under five major commands. CENTCOM, U.S. Pacific Command, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, and U.S. Army Medical Command each have one laboratory; Army Forces Command has two.

"The course is unfunded," said Dorman, "so everyone who comes has to pay their

own way." The cost — \$7,000 per student for the four-week course — means "we get a select few," he added.

The course's first two days are spent largely in the classroom. Students receive an overview of the history of biological warfare, along with briefings on laboratory concepts, current techniques, and field laboratory operations. The fundamentals of biological safety are also introduced. Next, they spend nine days learning how to extract genetic material — deoxyribonucleic acid and ribonucleic acid, or DNA and RNA — from multiple sample types, along with a technique called polymerase chain reaction, or PCR, which is used to identify the extracted DNA and RNA.

"Sensitivity" and "specificity" are two frequently heard buzzwords in the field of medical diagnostics. Sensitivity refers to the ability to detect even a small amount of biological agent in a sample. Specificity is the ability to detect a particular agent. Both are critical. According to Dorman, if a testing agent is not sensitive enough, false negatives can result; if it's not specific enough, false positives can happen.

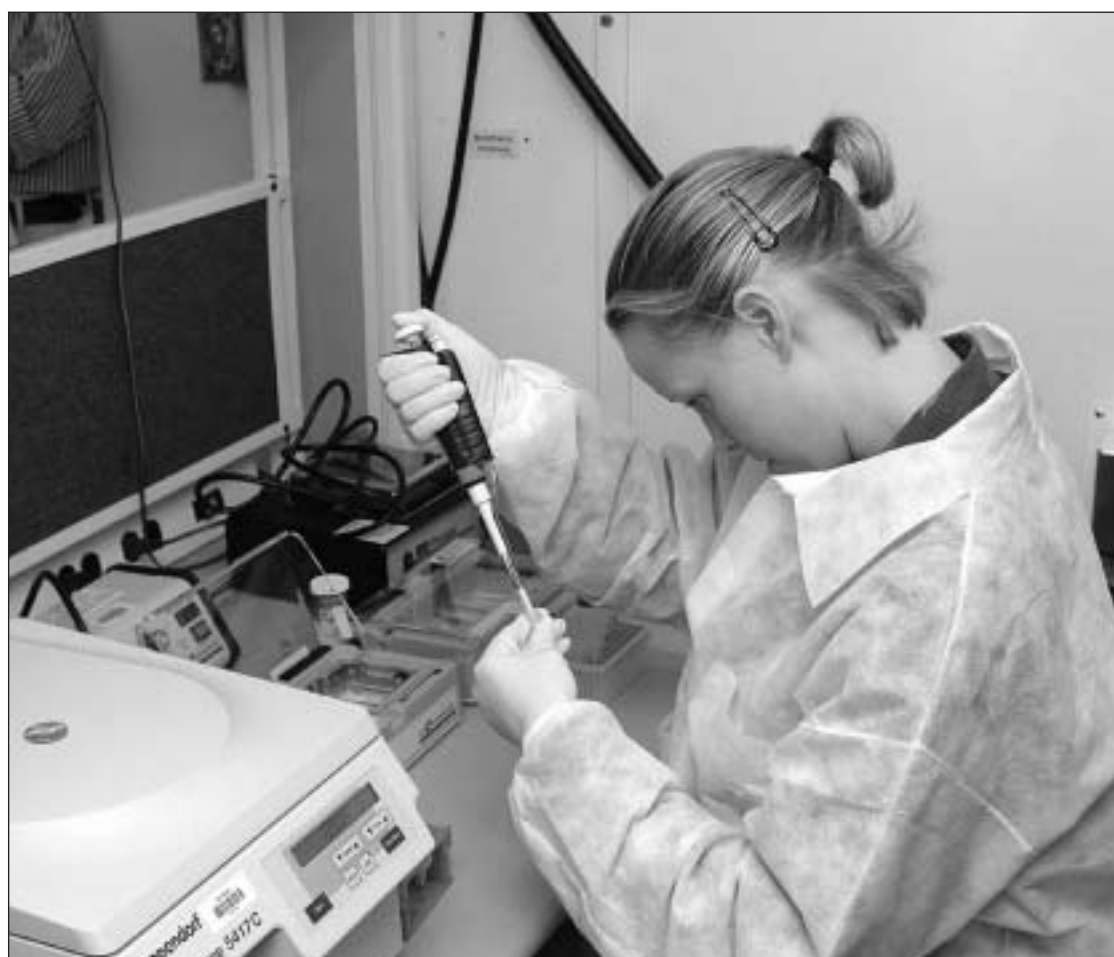
"Operation Desert Storm taught us that we need to have sensitive and specific technologies in a deployable laboratory, capable of analyzing both biomedical and environmental samples," said Army Maj. John Scherer, chief of the diagnostic systems division. Biomedical samples consist of tissue or bodily fluid samples from humans or animals, while environmental samples include air, soil, foliage, and water samples. All are important in a field setting, where the medical laboratory has three major roles: to support medical-treatment facilities, to support preventive-medicine surveillance, and to analyze samples from field detection systems.

One component of the FIBWA training is "real time" PCR using an instrument called the "Ruggedized Advanced Pathogen Identification Device," which was specially designed for military field labs. RAPID is a portable, impact-resistant package about the size of a briefcase that offers quick, safe and accurate field identification of potentially dangerous pathogens.

Sgt. Sean Brown, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. native, is a microbiologist with clinical laboratory and blood bank experience. "Pretty cool!" he said when asked to describe the FIBWA course. "I love the field work. It's a lot of fun."

Having a good grasp of molecular biology helped, said Brown, who had done PCR before but enjoyed being trained on the latest instruments. In January, he will be assigned to the CENTCOM testing lab.

"Getting to work with the real agents" is



Steve Fernandez

Spc. Kelly Miller runs a test to identify a substance during a course in field identification of biological warfare agents.

the most surprising aspect of the course, he said, though he was quick to add that all bacteria and viruses are deactivated before students handle them. "It still gives you a new level of respect for what we're doing," he noted.

Dorman strolls through the labs, pausing to check on each student's progress. Despite being peppered with questions from course attendees, he patiently describes the scene for a visitor. His group keeps busy; six student courses are offered per year, along with three "manager" courses. The latter are designed for decision makers like laboratory officers and commanders, who would get the lab results and act upon them.

During the course, students take both written and practical exams. The true test, however, comes during the final week of the course, when they perform a field training exercise. According to Dorman, this provides an opportunity to integrate the course material with real-world scenarios that challenge the students' understanding and skills.

Participants are given five scenarios to respond to and must set up and operate a lab under field conditions. Working together as a team, they develop and implement a test plan based on the sample type and information received with each scenario. They are then expected to analyze the sample, troubleshoot any problems that may arise, and provide a final identification, if any, to the instructor. Evaluations are based on how well the students respond and solve problems throughout the exercise.

Army Pfc. Kelly Miller, from Fort Eustis, Va., works in a hospital clinical

laboratory and said she finds the FIBWA focus on environmental samples "totally different." Unlike a clinical lab, she said, "out here you don't realize you messed up until you get your results back. In the field we would have to do it over; in the classroom, we try to figure out where the error occurred."

Miller has been in the Army two years and said she plans to make it a career. Like Brown, she'll do a tour of duty at the CENTCOM lab and says she is looking forward to it. Right now, though, she's up to her ears in the final field exercise.

"You have to put together everything you learned in the past three weeks, in one week!" she exclaimed.

While the FIBWA course is designed for organizations within DoD, special considerations can be made for other governmental agencies. Several civilian employees of the Department of Homeland Security's National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center recently completed the course. In addition, students from National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams in Georgia and West Virginia attended over the summer, and Scherer is in the process of designing a specialized course just for those units.

"USAMRIID continues to demonstrate its commitment to the warfighter, whether it's through research, direct analytical support, or training courses like FIBWA," said Army Col. Erik Henschel, USAMRIID commander. "In addition, as a partner in the National Interagency Biodefense Campus at Fort Detrick, we contribute to the nation's overall defense against bioterrorism."

CENTCOM News

Plane wreckage found, no survivors

KABUL, Afghanistan, Dec. 1, 2004 — Searchers who reached the wreckage of an aircraft missing since Nov. 27 in Afghanistan on Nov. 30 found no survivors, Combined Forces Command Afghanistan officials reported today.

Three U.S. soldiers and three civilian aircrew members were killed when the aircraft crashed near Bamyan province.

The CASA 212 civilian fixed-wing aircraft was reported missing Nov. 27 after it departed Bagram Air Base on a troop-transport and supply mission en-route to Farah. The aircraft never arrived at its destination or alternate airfields in the country.

Coalition forces launched ground and aircraft search efforts immediately when the aircraft was reported as missing. Coalition aircraft received an emergency locator transmitter signal in a mountainous region in central Afghanistan.

Late Nov. 29, coalition aircraft saw signs of what was believed to be the aircraft wreckage, but extreme weather and mountainous terrain complicated search efforts. On Nov. 30, a ground coalition rescue and recovery team made it to the accident site and was able to make positive identification of the aircraft and recover the remains of those killed in the crash.

The names of the deceased are being withheld pending notification of next of kin. Military officials said the cause of the accident is under investigation.

Iraqi, marine forces capture 32, find large weapons cache

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU, Iraq — Iraqi and U.S.

forces rounded up 32 suspected anti-Iraqi militants and uncovered a stockpile of more than 500 artillery rounds in heavy activity south of Baghdad Nov. 27.

Iraqi national guardsmen, backed by elements of the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, detained five individuals in a raid near Musayyib. Marines captured 21 suspects in two separate raids near Lutafiyah and five more in a pair of raids near Haswah.

Meanwhile, Marines attacked by a roadside bomb southwest of Lutafiyah chased down two suspected attackers, killing one, capturing another, and recovering what they believe was the remote detonator used in the attack.

MNSTC-I dispatches mobile training teams to Iraqi staffs

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Multinational Security Transition Command — Iraq began dispatching nine, five-member training teams to the Multinational Force's six major subordinate commands, Nov. 28, to assist in the training of Iraqi brigade and division senior staff officers.

The teams — comprised of U.S. Army personnel — will run Iraqi Army and National Guard officers through 30-day training cycles before rotating on to new staffs at the discretion of the various MSC commands. All trainers were formerly instructors at the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College or Combined Arms Service Staff School.

"We're teaching military decision-making," MNSTC-I, Strategy and Plans Officer, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Sean P. Sullivan said. "How to operate a tactical operations center, battle staff procedures, individual staff responsibilities, etc.



Photo by Cpl. James P. Johnson

Staff Sgt. Joshua Herbig with the 307th Psychological Operations Company, Ft. Louis, Mo., mans a loud speaker system broadcasting in Arabic "there is humanitarian packs to be given away" Nov. 15, 2004.

"What we're doing is giving each MSC one or two teams and allowing them to determine the priority of training (and) who gets them first," Sullivan said. "When we give them to the (U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division, for example), their priority might be the 40th ING Brigade.

"So that's who gets them first," he said.

Sullivan said that one of the teams could also be involved in assisting Iraqi staffs setting up a tactical operations center in Fallujah as part of the ongoing stability operations mission there, with the overall mobile training teams' mission in country lasting at least nine months as the teams make the rounds throughout the nation.

According to Sullivan, the training will be organized with limited "classroom-type instruction" with the majority of

the work "hands-on" in nature.

"They have some formal classes, but the bulk of it is coaching - one-on-one coaching," Sullivan said.

Each team is headed by a lieutenant colonel certified in the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College's year-long instructor training program.

The CGSC in Fort Leavenworth, Kan., prepares field grade officers for wartime duties by developing student reasoning and decision-making ability, character self-expression, and teamwork from a command position. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Iraqi training team — under the operational control of MNSTC-I — is currently standing up a similar school at the Iraqi Military Academy Al Rustamiyah, outside Baghdad.

Training will commence

throughout the country immediately.

MSSG-31 reduce weapons cache inventory

FALLUJAH — Marines and Sailors of MEU Service Support Group-31 of the I Marine Expeditionary Force continue to dispose of weapons caches — a voluminous amount of weapons, ordnance and bomb-making materials — that have been discovered by Multi-National Forces since the insurgent-held city of Fallujah was seized by Iraqi and MNF earlier this month.

The MSSG task organized a weapons cache removal and demolition task force that collects the weapons caches daily and transports the caches outside the city of Fallujah where demolition takes place. The task force includes military skill sets of explosive ordnance disposal, combat engineers, motor transport, corpsmen and military police.

"There must have been a sustained effort on the part of the insurgent leadership to build these massive weapons caches," said Lt. Col. James A. Vohr, commanding officer of MSSG-31. "One of the most striking aspects is what must have been the total disregard on the part of the insurgents for the safety of the citizens of Fallujah. Had any one of these caches detonated in town it would have leveled city blocks."

The task of removing the numerous weapons caches is conducted in a deliberate, methodical manner, and results in the daily reduction of what was left of the Fallujah-based insurgents' weapons and munitions inventory. This action by the Marines and Sailors of the task force is one step of a multi-step process that will ensure the city is safe when civilians eventually return.